

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 7, 2020

The Honorable Ron DeSantis
Governor of Florida
400 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Governor DeSantis:

We have been advised that central Florida's first responders are in urgent need of personal protective equipment (PPE). Specifically, we have been informed that the Orlando Police Department (OPD) and Orlando Fire Department (OFD) are dangerously low on masks and gowns and that their supplies of these items will be depleted in the next week or two weeks. As you know, police officers, firefighters, and paramedics are putting their lives at risk every day and they cannot be left unprotected from the threat of COVID-19. We respectfully request that you work with the Florida Department of Emergency Management to fulfill these requests as soon as possible.

As of April 6, Florida announced it would receive a third shipment from the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) that evidently will include the following items:

- 540,000 N95 masks
- 246,000 face shields
- 1,026 coveralls
- 714,354 gloves
- 1,290,000 surgical masks
- 201,000 gowns

OPD and OFD have followed protocol and directed their PPE request to Orange County's Office of Emergency Management, which referred that request on to FDEM. Both units have also adjusted community response procedures and have reduced PPE consumption considerably. Unfortunately, OPD and OFD have only received about 10 percent of the items they've requested. We understand that PPE resources are scarce and that areas of the state most affected by COVID-19 have received priority consideration. However, such limited disbursement to central Florida is unacceptable. When Florida receives the coming shipment of materials from the SNS, we urge you to direct critical protective gear for law enforcement to OPD and OFD.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Murphy
Member of Congress



Darren Soto
Member of Congress